

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Water Resources Division
Water Rights Bureau

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. *Applicant/Contact name and address:* Donald A. & Jane L. Putnam, 12 16th Ave S, Great Falls MT 59405
2. *Type of action:* Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 30022091-76I
3. *Water source name:* Groundwater Well
4. *Location affected by action:* SE of Section 3, T 29N, R 16W, Flathead County aka Lot 2KA of tract 26 in the Branch-Disel Subdivision within HES 867.
5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*
The DNRC shall issue a water use permit if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311, MCA are met. The applicants wish to obtain a water right for a well on their lot for domestic purposes including incidental lawn & garden irrigation. There is no record of a well log, but Flathead County cadastral indicates some type of dwelling on this lot dating back to 1973.
6. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:*
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction) US National Park Service, MT Historical Society, MT Natural Heritage Program and the MT FW & P website.

Part II. Environmental Review

1. Environmental Impact Checklist:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION

Water quantity - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

Determination: This permit is for an existing, un-permitted well for which no well log is available.

Water quality - Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.

Determination: No impacts are anticipated since this well has been in use for some time.

Groundwater - Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.

Determination: If this well was pumped at maximum capacity over an extended period of time it is possible that water could be coaxed away from the Middle Fork of the Flathead River.

DIVERSION WORKS - Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.

Determination: This well is existing. No well log was completed and submitted by the driller.

UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Endangered and threatened species - Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."

Determination: Although this is habitat for the Grizzly Bear, the Lynx and other animals of concern, since this well and cabin are existing and no physical changes will be made to the property, no impacts are expected.

Wetlands - Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.

Determination: There are no wetlands on this property.

Ponds - For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.

Determination: No ponds are associated to this action.

GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE - Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.

Determination: No changes will be made since this well was originally drilled.

VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS - Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.

Determination: Control of noxious weeds are the responsibility of the landowner.

AIR QUALITY - Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

Determination: No impacts.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES - Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Determination: There were no historic sites identified on this lot.

DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY - Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water, and energy not already addressed.

Determination: None were identified.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS - Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

Determination: This property was subdivided years ago.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES - Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

Determination: None. This is private property.

HUMAN HEALTH - Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: No impacts anticipated.

PRIVATE PROPERTY - Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes___ No_X_. If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

Determination:

OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - *For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.*

Impacts on:

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? No changes.
 - (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? This cabin is already listed on county records.
 - (c) Existing land uses? No changes
 - (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? None
 - (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? No changes since this cabin was built.
 - (f) Demands for government services? Slight demands.
 - (g) Industrial and commercial activity? None
 - (h) Utilities? No changes
 - (i) Transportation? Slight to no changes.
 - (j) Safety? No changes
 - (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None were identified.
2. ***Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:*** *Over time, the additional draw on this source may have an impact. However, the Glacier Park Compact is in place to protect the area from such impacts.*
3. ***Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:*** *None are justified at this time.*
4. ***Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:*** *Since the well and cabin are already in place, this was the only alternative considered.*

PART III. Conclusion

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? No

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action: Because no cumulative or significant impacts were identified as a result of this action, the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the action.

Name of person responsible for preparation of EA:

Name: Wes McAlpin, Kalispell RO, DRNC
Title: Water Resources Specialist
Date: July 12, 2006